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POEMS FROM THE CHINESE

In the original syllabic and rhyme scheme, to accompany the Chinese chanting tunes.

AN OLD MAN'S SONG OF SPRING

By Seng Dji-Nan (Sung Dynasty)

Among the trees I may yet
Enjoy the day at sunset;
  For willow winds are not cold,
Apricot rains are not wet.

SEEKING THE HERMIT IN VAIN

By Gia Dao (T'ang Dynasty)

"Gone to gather herbs"—
  So they say of you.
But in cloud-girt hills,
  What am I to do?

ON BEING DENIED ADMITTANCE TO A FRIEND'S GARDEN

By Yeh Shih (Sung Dynasty)

Although your gate bar *my* way,
You cannot check the spring's play;
  For free above your proud wall
There hangs one apricot spray.